

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1 and 11 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2, 3 and 12 are "objected to."

Claims 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 16 and 19 are amended herein, and new claims 22-26 are added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 12, 13, 16, 19 and 22-26 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 4, 11, 13, 16 and 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HOLMDAHL (USP# 5,675,813)**

Claims 1 and 11 are cancelled herein.

The present invention as recited in claim 4, relates to an information processing equipment comprising a connection status deciding unit, which includes "a detecting switch that is provided on the connector and is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector, and a deciding circuit that decides a connection status of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the detecting switch." Thus, for example, the present invention monitors a change of status (ON or OFF) of the detecting switch 131 (as shown in FIG. 8 of the Applicant's specification) that switches ON/OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection of the communication line 150.

Holmdahl discloses a bus powered hub having a switch to control power distribution in a universal serial bus. A single switch is used to control power distribution to a number of peripherals connected to the bus powered hub. When the bus powered hub is initialized, the switch is activated thus providing power to the peripheral devices coupled to the bus powered hub.

Contrary to the present invention, Holmdahl controls power supply by switching a communication line by means of a switch 70 (see column 8, lines 7-18), which is not turned ON/OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection of the communication line. Thus, the physical connection or disconnection of the peripheral devices of Holmdahl is not

judged by monitoring the ON/OFF status of the switch 70. In fact, the presence of the peripheral devices is sensed by the data hub circuitry 60. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the switch 70 of Holmdahl does not function the same as the claimed detecting switch as recited in claim 4 of the present invention.

Further, Holmdahl teaches that if the data hub circuitry 60 determines that no peripheral devices are coupled to it, an initialization procedure for that particular peripheral device is omitted. However, the present invention provides a deciding circuit that decides a connection status based on a status of the detecting switch (see claim 4).

Thus, Holmdahl does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 4 of the present invention.

Similar to claim 4, claim 13 recites, “confirmation is carried out by monitoring a state of a switch that is provided on a connector through which the connection line is connected and that is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector and deciding a connection state of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the switch,” which distinguishes over the teachings of Holmdahl.

Claims 16 and 19 are amended herein to include the allowable subject matter recited in the “objected to” claim 12. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 19 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

### III. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 22-26 are added. Similar to the “objected to” claim 12, claims 22, 24 and 26 recite, “wherein transmission/reception is performed in a plurality of operation modes having different levels of power consumption, and when the initialization processing is not carried out based on the confirmation that said communication line has not been connected, said transmission/reception is shifted to an operation mode in which power consumption is lower,” which distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Similar to claim 13, claims 23 and 25 recite, “wherein the confirmation is carried out by monitoring a state of a switch that is provided on a connector through which the connection line is connected and that is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector and deciding a

connection state of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the switch," which distinguishes over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-26 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: August 6, 2004

By: Derrick L. Fields  
Derrick L. Fields  
Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501